

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently amended) A method for preventing oxidative corrosion of a metal, comprising:  
applying an anti-corrosion composition to a surface of a metal or a device containing a metal susceptible to oxidative corrosion, said composition comprising an amount of an anti-corrosion agent comprising a~~The method of claim 1, wherein said lower alkyl carboxylic acid moiety is~~in the form of a lower alkyl carboxylic acid anion effective for forming an anti-corrosive barrier over said surface, and optionally further comprising a moisture retentive barrier forming material in an amount effective for forming a moisture retentive barrier over said surface.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently amended) A method for preventing oxidative corrosion of a metal, comprising:  
applying an anti-corrosion composition to a surface of a metal or a device containing a metal susceptible to oxidative corrosion, said composition comprising an amount of an anti-corrosion agent comprising a lower alkyl carboxylic acid moiety effective for forming an anti-corrosive barrier over said surface, and optionally further comprising a moisture retentive barrier forming material in an amount effective for forming a moisture retentive barrier over said surface,~~The method of claim 1,~~wherein said anti-corrosion agent and said material capable of forming a moisture retentive barrier over a surface of said metal are in powdered form.
5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4[[1]], wherein said anti-corrosion agent and said material capable of forming a moisture retentive barrier over a surface of said metal are both provided in powdered form to produce a powdered

composition; and wherein said powdered composition is applied to a surface of said metal by powder metallurgy processing.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2[[1]], wherein said material capable of forming a moisture retentive barrier over a surface of said metal is selected from the group consisting of a polar liquid, a nonpolar liquid, a viscous material, an organic liquid, a polymeric material and a petroleum-based substance, and mixtures thereof.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2[[1]], wherein said composition further comprises any one of a polar liquid, a non-polar liquid, a surfactant, an antioxidant, an organic liquid, a polymeric material, a petroleum-based substance, a buffering material, or graphite or particulate carbon in a suspension.

8. (Currently amended) A method for preventing oxidative corrosion of a metal, comprising:

applying an anti-corrosion composition to a surface of a metal or a device containing a metal susceptible to oxidative corrosion, said composition comprising an amount of an anti-corrosion agent comprising a lower alkyl carboxylic acid moiety effective for forming an anti-corrosive barrier over said surface, and optionally further comprising a moisture retentive barrier forming material in an amount effective for forming a moisture retentive barrier over said surface, The method of claim 1, wherein said anti-corrosion agent is packaged for delayed release.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said anti-corrosion agent is encapsulated.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2[[1]], wherein in said composition, said anti-corrosion agent is present at a concentration from about 0.2 to about 60 percent by weight.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2[[1]], wherein said composition is first prepared in concentrated form and then diluted.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2[[1]], said method further comprising, following said applying step, the step of applying a further coating layer over said surface.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said further coating layer is applied by a process selected from the group consisting of painting, electro-plating and electro-polishing.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2[[1]], wherein said applying step comprises using said composition as a lubricant for a surface of said metal.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2[[1]], wherein said applying step comprises using said composition as a pump oil or brake fluid.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) A method for preventing oxidative corrosion of a metal, comprising:

applying an anti-corrosion composition to a surface of a metal or a device containing a metal susceptible to oxidative corrosion, said composition comprising an amount of an anti-corrosion agent comprising a lower alkyl carboxylic acid moiety that is  
~~The method of claim 1, wherein said lower alkyl carboxylic acid moiety is derived from a~~  
C1-C6 carboxylate and is effective for forming an anti-corrosive barrier over said surface, and optionally further comprising a moisture retentive barrier forming material in an amount effective for forming a moisture retentive barrier over said surface.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said C1-C6 carboxylate is selected from the group consisting of formate, acetate, propionate, butyrate, and 2-methyl propionate, and mixtures thereof.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein said C1-C6 carboxylate comprises a cation selected from alkali metal or alkaline earth metal cations.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein said cation is sodium.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17[[1]], wherein said lower alkyl carboxylic acid moiety is derived from sodium propionate.

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2[[1]], wherein said anti-corrosion agent is ingestible by humans.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein said composition further comprises at least one additional anti-corrosive agent that is different from said lower alkyl carboxylic acid moiety and which is also ingestible by humans.

24. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2[[23]], ~~wherein said at least additional anti-corrosion agent comprises~~ further comprising a 2,4-trans, trans-hexadiene moiety.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein said 2,4-trans, trans-hexadiene moiety is in the form of a 2,4-trans, trans-hexadienoic anion.

26. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein said composition further comprises at least one compound capable of increasing the solubility of said ingestible anti-corrosion agent.

27. (Currently amended) A method for preventing oxidative corrosion of a metal, comprising:

applying an anti-corrosion composition to a surface of a metal or a device containing a metal susceptible to oxidative corrosion, said composition comprising an amount of an anti-corrosion agent comprising a lower alkyl carboxylic acid moiety effective for forming an anti-corrosive barrier over said surface, ~~The method of claim 1,~~ wherein said composition further comprises a benzoic moiety, and optionally further comprising a moisture retentive barrier forming material in an amount effective for forming a moisture retentive barrier over said surface.

28. (Currently amended) A method for preventing oxidative corrosion of a metal, comprising:

applying an anti-corrosion composition to a surface of a metal or a device containing a metal susceptible to oxidative corrosion, said composition comprising an amount of an anti-corrosion agent comprising a lower alkyl carboxylic acid moiety effective for forming an anti-corrosive barrier over said surface, and optionally further comprising a moisture retentive barrier forming material in an amount effective for forming a moisture retentive barrier over said surface, ~~The method of claim 1,~~ wherein said composition lower alkyl carboxylic acid moiety comprises a propionic anion, and wherein the composition further comprises a 2,4-trans, trans-hexadienoic anion and a benzoic anion.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently amended) A method for preventing oxidative corrosion of a metal, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a metal or a device containing a metal wherein said metal is susceptible to oxidative corrosion;

providing an anti-corrosion solution, said solution comprising an effective amount of an anti-corrosion agent dissolved in a polar solvent, said agent comprising a C1-C6

carboxylic acid moiety ~~The method of claim 29, wherein said C1-C6 carboxylic acid moiety is~~ in the form of a propionic anion; and  
continuously immersing said metal or said device in said solution.

31-70. (Canceled)